

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:311
ANSWERED ON:14.08.2000
ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE
RASHID ALVI

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have worked out the estimated cost of environmental damage caused from air, vehicular pollution, water pollution, soil degradations and deforestation on account of various fires during each of the last three years; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU)

(a) & (b) : A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) & (b) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 311 FOR REPLY ON 14TH AUGUST, 2000 REGARDING "ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE".

(a) & (b): No, Sir. The Government have not worked out the estimated cost of environmental damage in the country. However, the cost of environmental degradation have been estimated by the World Bank and the Tata Energy Research Institute. According to the World Bank, the estimated cost of environmental degradation for the year 1991-92 adds up to 4.8% of GDP.

According to the Tata Energy Research Institute, the economic values of environmental degradation and depletion of natural resources in 1997 are as follows:-

Problem	Annual Economic Value (Rs.billion)
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Poor quality of drinking water and its effect on human health	122
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Loss of crop productivity due to soil degradation	89-232
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Loss of wood due to forest degradation	57
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Air pollution and its impact on human health	885-4250
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